

the immediate promulgation of the fundamental principles of a Constitution, which would have shorn it of practically every vestige of power, and it was on this basis that he had hoped to effect a settlement. But after the recapture of Hankow the Navy mutinied; no sooner was Hanyang re-taken than Nanking fell. Through foreign mediation an Armistice and a Peace Conference were arranged. But the Republicans refused to modify their demand for abdication. They were supported by the Provincial Assemblies of Chihli and Honan. When the gravity of the situation was reported to the Empress Dowager (the Prince Regent having resigned) she issued a Decree summoning a National Convention to determine the future form of Government. But it was impossible to reach an agreement as to where this Convention should meet, and how it should be elected. As regards the military situation, Wuchang might have been recaptured had it not been for the unanimous demand of all classes for a policy of pacification. The Treasury was well-nigh exhausted, and there was a shortage of munitions. It was impossible to raise a foreign loan.

Dr. Wu Ting-fang, an elderly diplomat, was the Chief Republican Delegate at Shanghai. Other members of the Delegation included C. T. Wang,

who had been General Li's Chief
Diplomatic Representative at Wuchang, Wang Chung-hui,
Wen Tsumg-yao (who had been mainly
responsible for the foreign propaganda of the
Republicans), and Wang Ching-wei, who had been released
from his sentence of life-imprisonment on
November 6.